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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: microsoft settlement

gentlemen: i am not an antitrust lawyer, i know nothing about antitrust laws and i only followed the legal proceedings in general terms. on the other hand, i don't consider myself stupid either. despite the judge's findings, i find it difficult to understand what microsoft did wrong - they negotiated hard. what is wrong with that - i don't under-stand why hard negotiating is illegal. the main evidence against microsoft was from their competitors - what do you expect the competitors to say?? the bottom line is now that the court has rendered its decision, and doj appears interested in settlement, lets end this litigation as fast as possible. in this era of business difficulties, microsoft appears to be one of the few that is not laying off employees - they are making a profit - they are paying their taxes. its time to end this as fast as possible. the federal government has proposed a fair settlement the "holdouts" have no credibility - i suspect they all have ulterior motives beyond the best interests of the consumer - like competitors being located in those states, etc.. incidentally, was there ever any proof (other than speculation from competitors) that the consumer was hurt by anything microsoft did. it looks like the consumer got the best product for the cheapest possible price. what's wrong with that?? isn't the government supposed to take care of the consumers most importantly rather than the interests of the competitors?? Incidentally and in the interest of full disclosure, I own 800 shares of microsoft.- thank you - rvp